

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6094

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Human Services & Corrections, January 27, 2014

Title: An act relating to the use of jail data for research purposes in the public interest.

Brief Description: Authorizing the use of jail data for research purposes in the public interest.

Sponsors: Senator Hargrove.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services & Corrections: 1/20/14, 1/27/14 [DPS].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6094 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators O'Ban, Chair; Pearson, Vice Chair; Darneille, Ranking Member; Hargrove and Padden.

Staff: Kevin Black (786-7747)

Background: A jail must maintain a jail register, open to the public, containing the name of each person confined in jail and the hour, date, and cause of the confinement. All other jail records must be held in confidence, and made available only to criminal justice agencies that perform activities directly relating to the apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, or rehabilitation of criminal offenders. Jail records pertaining to an individual may be released upon written permission of the person. Booking photographs may be used to assist in criminal investigations.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute): Records of persons confined in jail may be released to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, or to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Research and Data Analysis Division of the Department of Social and Health Services, higher education institutions of Washington State, Washington State Health Care Authority, State Auditor's Office, Caseload Forecast Council, or Office of Financial Management for the purpose of research in the public interest. Data disclosed for research purposes must comply with relevant state and federal statutes.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute): The State Auditor's Office, Caseload Forecast Council, and Office of Financial Management are added to the list of entities which may receive jail data for the purpose of research in the public interest.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: PRO: We administer the jail data system for the state and we have received requests from time to time from research institutions to access this data. We support this bill.

OTHER: Please add the State Auditor's Office to this bill. We use data matching to test for improper payments in other state systems.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Mitch Barker, WA Assn. of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

OTHER: Matt Miller, Chuck Pfeil, State Auditor's Office.